



2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/767, 459 01/23/01 AIZAWA

M F-6842

EXAMINER

MMC2/0509

NGUYEN, T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2834

DATE MAILED:

05/09/01

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP
122 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK NY 10168

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/767,459

Applicant(s)

Aizawa et al

Examiner

Nguyen, Tran

Art Unit

2834



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
is/are allowed.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are objected to.
7) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.
8) Claims _____

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

Art Unit:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-3** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda et al (US 4250421) in view of JP 5-299221 (hereafter JP'221).

Masuda discloses a stepping motor having a rotor is formed by molding a mixture of powder magnet and resin. Masuda substantially discloses the claimed invention, except for the magnetic power to be SmFeN material.

JP'221, however, teaches the use of Sm-Fe-N magnet powder to form a magnet to that can be used in a rotor or a stator of a small motor. The SmFeN magnet powder has excellent

Art Unit:

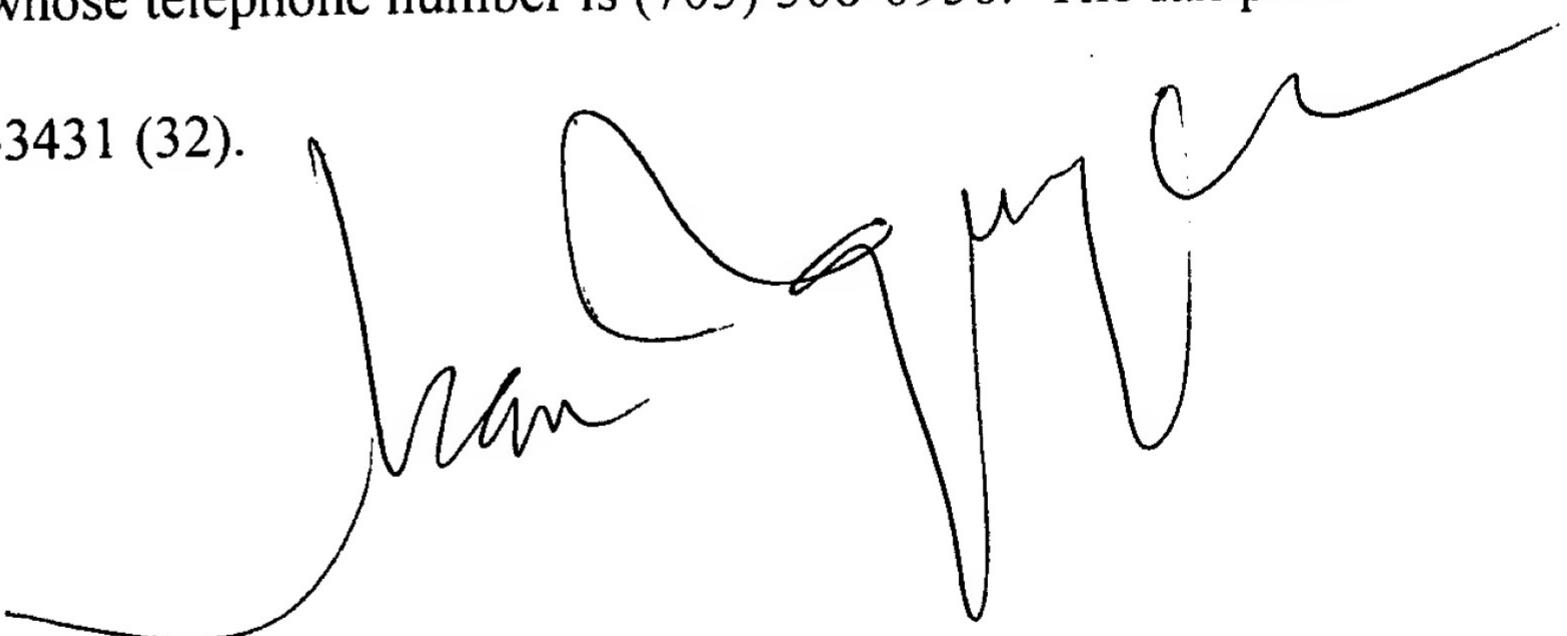
magnetic characteristics, and bond magnets are known for the mechanical elasticity and high performance.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Masuda stepping motor having a molded rotor formed of a mixture of Sm-Fe-N magnet powder and resin, as taught by JP'221. Doing so would improve the magnetic characteristics of the rotor resulting in enhance performance thereof.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1639.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3431 (32).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TRAN NGUYEN". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'T' and 'N'.

TRAN NGUYEN

PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

TC-2800